

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04535 221451Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03
/053 W

-----042736 221452Z /43

O R 221345Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6835
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 4535

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: THE HISTADRUT ELECTION--LABOR TRIUMPHS

REF: TEL AVIV 4450

1. LABOR'S EARLY AND SURPRISING LEAD IN THE HISTADRUT
ELECTIONS HAS HELD UP AS THE COUNTING CONTINUES. AS OF
NOON TODAY, WITH THE RETURNS FROM ABOUT HALF THE POLLING
STATIONS COUNTED, THE COMPUTERIZED PROJECTIONS ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

ALIGNMENT	53 PERCENT
RELIGIOUS WORKERS	2 PERCENT
DMC	7 PERCENT
ILP-CR	1 PERCENT
RAKAH	2 PERCENT
SHELLI	1 PERCENT
LIKUD	32 PERCENT
ALL OTHER LISTS	2 PERCENT

THE ALIGNMENT WON IN TEL AVIV WITH 56 PERCENT, HAIFA
55 PERCENT, NAZARETH 55 PERCENT, IT ALSO APPEARS
TO HAVE RETAINED CONTROL OF MAJOR LABOR COUNCILS SUCH
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04535 221451Z

AS BEERSHEVA, NETANYA, AFULA, HOLON, BET SHEAN (THE
HOME TOWN OF LIKUD CANDIDATE DAVID LEVY) AND ASHKELON.
IN JERUSALEM BOTH ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD GAINED 40 PER-
CENT OF THE VOTE; THE ALIGNMENT HOPES TO FORM A COALITION
WITH THE DMC THERE. THE ONLY LARGE TOWN IN WHICH THE
LIKUD WON A PLOURALITY OVER THE ALIGNMENT WAS ASHDOD.

2. NA'AMAT (WORKING WOMEN) VOTED OVER 60 PERCENT FOR THE ALIGNMENT, PERHAPS REFLECTING CONCERN OVER BEGIN'S POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ABORTION, EXEMPTING RELIGIOUS GIRLS FROM MILITARY SERVICE, AND THE NEW POWERS TO BE ACCORDED TO THE RELIGIOUS COURTS(WHICH DEAL WITH FAMILY MATTERS AND ARE NOTORIOUSLY MALE ORIENTED). ABOUT 830,000 MEMBERS, OR 62 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL HISTADRUT MEMBERSHIP, VOTED AS COMPARED WITH 68 PERCENT IN 1973. SOME 80,000 ABSENTEE BALLOTS, MOSTLY FROM SERVICEMEN, REMAINED TO BE COUNTED AND COULD GIVE LIKUD ANOTHER PERCENT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ALIGNMENT, BUT THE LATTER'S MAJORITY APPEARS TO BE SAFE.

3. LABOR WAS ELATED OVER ITS "VICTORY" WHICH ASSURED IT CONTINUING MAJORITY CONTROL OF THE HISTADRUT FOR FOUR YEARS. BOTH LABOR PARTY AND HISTADRUT LEADERS IMMEDIATELY CLAIMED THAT THE VERDICT GREATLY QUALIFIED THE VOTER'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE LIKUD AND SHOWED THAT THE COUNTRY REMAINED ANXIOUS AND AMBIVALENT REGARDING THE DIRECTION WHICH BEGIN APPEARED TO BE TAKING. A GOOD PART OF THIS ANXIETY WAS CAUSED BY LIKUD'S PLANNED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY. THE RATE OF ABSTENTION AND THE SIGNIFICANT SHIFT OF VOTES FROM DMC, RAKAH, AND LEFT WING OR ETHNIC SPLINTER GROUPS TO THE ALIGNMENT ARE TAKEN TO BEAR OUT THE CLAIM THAT THE HISTADRUT VOTERS SOUGHT TO QUALIFY THE POPULAR ENDORSEMENT OF THE LIKUD. HISTADRUT SPOKESMEN CLAIM THAT OVER 100,000 VOTERS REVERTED FROM LIKUD TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 04535 221451Z

ALIGNMENT. THEY ALSO ARGUE THAT BEGIN'S FORMATION OF HIS NEW GOVERNMENT ON THE EVE OF THE HISTADRUT ELECTION MAY HAVE BACKFIRED BY AROUSING MANY VOTERS' DOUBTS ABOUT LIKUD'S LABOR AND SOCIAL PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME, LIKUD'S ELECTORAL GAIN FROM 23 TO 32 PERCENT, OR ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE HISTADRUT'S ELECTORATE, IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT CONSIDERING THAT LIKUD HAS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST POWERFULLY ENTRENCHED INSTITUTIONS. FURTHER REPORT AND COMMENT FOLLOWS WHEN DEFINITIVE RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV04535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770629/aaaaaziv.tel
Line Count: 105
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Review Content Flags:
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Subject: THE HISTADRUT ELECTION--LABOR TRIUMPHS
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